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LAKE COUNTY -- The widening and reconstruction of the Illinois Highway 60 bridge over the Tri-State Tollway is slated to begin in 2007, Illinois Transportation Secretary Tim Martin told local officials meeting Tuesday in Lake Forest.

IDOT and the Illinois State Toll Highway Authority will share the cost of the \$32 million project that has been on the drawing board for more than five years, Martin said.

A representative of U.S. Rep. Mark Kirk (R-III.) said \$9 million from the federal transportation budget also has been earmarked for the project, which includes widening the tollway near the Illinois 60 bridge.

Local contributions are expected in the form of land acquisitions for rights of way, officials said.

"Widening of the [Illinois] 60 bridge is a critical project for the entire region," said state Sen. Susan Garrett (D-Lake Forest), who hosted the meeting.